

An Essay
On the
Homoeopathic Treatment,
of
Dysentery

Respectfully submitted to the Faculty of
the Homoeopathic Medical College of
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For the

Doctorate in Medicine
By
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Homoeopathic Treatment of Dysentery.

Perhaps no disease has received more attention from Medical Writers than Dysentery. Although much has been written upon dysentery by such men as Sydenham & Boerhaave, and others of equal eminence it has left to the sensible Hahnemann to discover a Law of Cure, by the application of which we are enabled to meet this formidable disease with a true and successful treatment.

It is believed that no one who has given Homoeopathy a candid investigation, will doubt for a moment its superiority in the treatment of Dysentery, and in no case is this more manifest than in the treatment of Dysentery.

Possessing implicit confidence in that infallible Law of Cure, Similia Similibus Curentur

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It is believed that no one, who has given Homoeopathy a candid investigation, will doubt for a moment its superiority in the treatment of disease, and in no case is this more manifest than in the treatment of dysentery.

Possessing implicit confidence in that immutable law of cure, Similia Similibus Curantur

the physician may enter the sickroom fully assured that he is able to combat disease successfully, in whatever form it may present itself.

Dysentery is a disease of the intestinal canal, characterized by an inflammatory condition of the mucous or lining membrane of the colon and rectum, which sometimes extends to other portions of the bowels, accompanied with fever, mucus or mucus-sanguinolent evacuations with griping and tenesmus.

It is usually divided by pathologists into the acute and chronic forms. The latter is generally the sequel of the former and has usually a fatal termination.

In most cases of true dysentery the discharges are of a mucus or viscid character, but often the severity of the inflammation is such as to produce an excretion of matter of "membranous appearance," which is effused on the surface of the inflamed membrane.

Although the inflammation is generally confined to the colon and rectum, yet the small intestine often becomes implicated in the disease, which goes on to ulceration and suppuration, producing extensive disorganization of the parts diseased. The inflammation often sometimes extends as far as the stomach, which often presents, in such cases, the dark and gangrenous appearance found in the intestines.

Sometimes dysentery attacks the patient without any very marked premonitory symptoms, but generally it is preceded by sudden chills with shuddering, alternated with flushes of heat; loss of appetite; nausea sometimes vomiting; a feeling of drowsiness; disturbed sleep; lassitude; thirst, with a bitter taste in the mouth, and dry tongue; frequent lancinating pains in the abdomen; hiccups; diarrhoea, and often constipation.

Dysentery may be distinguished from

diseases by the presence of pain in the former and its absence in the latter. In dysentery there is a discharge of feces but in dysentery it is generally muting. It is of the highest importance that the Homoeopathic physician should make this distinction, as the treatment of dysentery differs materially from that of dysentery.

When dysentery occurs in the Sporadic form, and attacks persons of good constitution, it seldom proves fatal; but should it assume the chronic form, of a typhoid character, accompanied with frequent and bitter evacuations; the abdomen swells and much distended; the prognosis is exceedingly unfavorable.

Death is generally preceded by a marked change in the countenance; great prostration of strength; heecough; cold extremities; unconsciousness; absence of abdominal pain; difficulty of swallowing, and little or no discharge from the bowels.

1. Dysentery Acute. Acute Dysentery.

Pulse hard accelerated pulse; a sensation of chilliness over the whole surface of the body; coldness of the surface with internal heat; flushed face with a sensation of heat in the whole body. Abdomen distended, and very painful on pressure; pains in the extremities; Cramps in the legs and feet; Cold and shiverings in the limbs, sometimes accompanied with nausea; excessive heat and dryness of the skin; continued prostration. Dry mouth with Thirst; Nausea and vomiting before and after stool. Paralysis of the Sphincter ani; involuntary discharges from the bowels; Stinging pains with sense of pressure in the anus; Cutting, tearing, and lancinating pains in the abdomen; Stools of a whitish appearance. Pains of a Rheumatic character in the head, neck and shoulders.

In dysentery accompanied with much fever, the value of Aconite cannot be overrated. In cases where there is a tendency to severe inflammation

of the mucous coats of the large and small intestines, Leonite should always be administered. It has even proved beneficial after the vomiting of fecal matter, with extreme anguish and coldness of the extremities.

Hahnemann observes that in all cases where Leonite is chosen, especial attention should be paid to the morbid symptoms; and the physician should be careful that they resemble those which belong to this remedy.

2. Dysentery Arterica. Arteric Dysentery.

Violent tenesmus with discharge of flatus; the stools of a purulent character; discharge resembling brown yeast; tenesmus followed by a copious thin stool, of a brownish smell: difficult stool with great pressure and distention of the abdomen: distention of the abdomen before stool. Tongue white with a yellow film: taste in the mouth like rotten eggs; eructations tasting

like rotten eggs; little salt eruptions; flatus
 smelling like rotten eggs; itching and pressure
 in the rectum. Stools frequent and small con-
 sisting only of slime; after every stool is obliged
 to lie down. Contraction in the anus; violent strain-
 ing in the rectum. Breath exceedingly offensive. Dark
 red urine depositing a brick colored sediment;
 sensation of weight in the limbs; urination to all obstructions
 the urine soon becoming turbid.

Armen is at present but little used in the
 treatment of dysentery, yet, judging from its
 pathogenetic symptoms, we are led to regard
 it as a remedy of considerable value in this
 disease.

3. Dysentery arsenici. Arsenicum Dysentery.

Dark clay colored evacuations; the discharges
 by stool are shreddy, decomposed, and have
 a tallow-like appearance; Stools smelling like
 putrid sores; a sensation of great distention as

if the patient would burst before going to stool;
 distention of the colon; discharge of mucus mingled
 with blood; discharge of pure blood; discharge of a
 corrosive mucus. Cudicrous appearance of the counte-
 nance; face of a blue color. Tongue of a bluish
 hue; intense thirst with irritability of the stomach;
 vomiting of dark blue masses; vomiting of a
 thin dirty substance, of a yellow color, with colic
 pains in the abdomen; clammy sweat, with faint-
 ing fits. Putrid taste in the mouth; tongue of a
 black color; dry and cracked. Countenance yellow
 Hippocratic countenance. Great eructation; much
 sleep. Excessive anxiety and tossing in bed.
 Miliary eruption on the skin; pale skin; vesicu-
 lar eruption; dark pustules of a burning and
 painful character. Greenish dark brown urine;
 retention of urine; involuntary discharge of urine.
 Sensation in the limbs as if beaten. Pains in the
 abdomen mitigated by the application of external

heat; violent burning around the anus. Pulse weak and intermittent: great loss of strength with emaciation; Stupefaction; at times violent delirium and fear of death, or indifference.

Corsevicum is one of our most important Remedies in the treatment of dysentery. It may be selected in cases when there is much fever of a typhoid character, and when the disease arises from exposure to noxious exhalations of marshy districts.

In cases where ulceration of the bowels has taken place, with great prostration and rapid sinking of the vital powers, this remedy is of inestimable value.

4. Dysentery Belladonna. Belladonna Dysentery.

Constant pressure and bearing down in the region of the anus and genital organs; alternating with painful contraction of the anus; tenesmus and colic with no discharge from the bowels; pressure in the rectum. The pains are worse on the left.

Side arm are aggranted by leaning towards that side: Spasmodic pain in the lower part of the abdomen, alternates with dull stitches in the region of the diaphragm: Vomiting after tenesmus; gray colored stools; green stools with sweat. Dysalgia of the sphincter ani; involuntary discharge of feces; sudden lancinating pain in the rectum; urgent desire for stool, with violent itching and contraction of the anus. Urine of a yellow color involuntary discharge of urine. Stomach and bilious vomiting; excess in thirst abdomen much distended and very painful to the touch. Some fever in the evening; violent congestion to the head and the livium. Eruption of painful vesicles. Urine white and turbid. Aversion to drinks of all kinds; weak and full pulse; general debility.

This remedy is particularly adapted to dry inflammatory dysentery. Belladonna suits patients of a plethoric habit and of a lively and violent temperament.

5. *Dysenteria Cantharidis. Cantharides Dysentery.*

Gripping pains in the abdomen with a discharge of a white mucus mingled with blood appearing as though it had been scraped off from the bowels. Burning pains in the abdomen extending to the kidneys; urine turbid and of a reddish color. The skin of peculiar yellow color. Passage of pure blood by stool; bloody stool with a discharge of pebble like membrane during the night. Pulse full quick and sometimes intermittent; much fever with dry mouth and excessive thirst. Numbness of the limbs. Coma and great debility.

6. *Dysenteria Capsici. Capsicum Dysentery.*

Stools frequent and small, consisting mostly of bloody mucus; discharge of a tough mucus mixed with blood; then following each stool and every drink followed by shuddering; frequent desire to go to stool, specially after drinking; Colic pains in the abdomen, followed by small and string

Stools, severe gripping pains in the region of the umbilicus. Tenesmus with burning around the anus; itching in the anus; smarting and stinging pains in the anus; much heat about the anus; violent distention of the abdomen which is at times so much more sensitive that the clothes cannot be borne. Painful feeling of pressure in the region of the stomach and duodenum; discharge of a greenish frothy matter. Urine hot and of a red color. Inclination to vomit; excessive lassitude. Much thirst with burning & excoriation of the tongue; tongue hot, dry and trembling. Mind irritable; a peculiar taste in the mouth like putrid water; great sensibility; frequent starting during sleep.

This remedy is useful when the disease is complicated with rheumatism; also when it takes the catarrhal form accompanied with great nervous irritability of the whole system -

7. *Dysenteria Carbo Vegetabilis*. Carb. Veg. Dysentery.

Violent straining with little or no discharge from the bowels; tenesmus with burning in the anus; pressure in the rectum; paralysis of the Sphincter ani; involuntary discharge of feces: stools of a light color; Bumpy colic after stool; lumpiness after stool; a discharge of curdled mucus, with coated tongue; severe cutting and shooting pains in the anus: stools followed by burning in the rectum. Sensation of lightness in the abdomen after going to stool; sensation of pressure towards the middle of the back: much anxiety and a tremulous sensation in the region of the rectum after stool. Bluish appearance of the face. Frequent attacks of burning heat during the night; pulse almost imperceptible; breath cold, with wandering of the patient's mind.

Carbo Vegetabilis is an invaluable remedy in the cure of dysentery. The symptoms calling for its use much resemble those of *Corseican*

Dr. Sauri in speaking of this remedy in dysentery says many instances might be cited where a judicious alternation of these two remedies has effected benefit when neither of them might have been singly adequate to the exigency of the case.

8. *Dysenteria Chamomilla*. Cham. Dysentery.

Light colored feces; undigested stools; discharges of green colored feces, with colic pains; much fever with burning in the anus; itching pains in the anus; constant leaning down and little or no discharge. Excessive heat of the whole body with thirst; headache; pains in the head resembling those of rheumatism; extreme agitation and tossing in bed; stools of a bilious character. Tongue coated with a pale substance and bitter taste in the mouth.

Chamomilla is found to be most useful in the first stages of dysentery and may be given

in cases when Aconite has failed to relieve the
 febrile symptoms. It is also serviceable when the
 disease is complicated with hemorrhoidal affections.

9. Dysentery Chinae. China Dysentery.

Mucous stools; involuntary loose stools of a
 yellow color; undigested stools during the night;
 blackish or bilious stools, with much wrying and
 straining; loose white stools and high colored urine.
 Stools of a putrid character; sanguineous excretions
 with stitches and smarting in the anus; violent
 colic preceeding each stool; collection of flatus
 in the intestines; discharge of acrid juices. A pecu-
 liar tingling in the rectum as if produced by worms;
 stitching and burning pain in the rectum after
 stools; creeping pain in the anus extending to the
 urethra accompanied with burning in the glands.
 Hot skin; much thirst; pulse full, hard
 and quick. Sinking in the pit of the stomach;
 urine dark colored.

This remedy is particularly adapted to the treatment of dysentery when it occurs as an epidemic in malarial situations. Opium is also a distinguished remedy in cases arising from a passion to hot, sudden changes of weather etc.

10. *Dysentery Colocynthidis. Colocynth Dysentery.*

Frequent stools with violent tenesmus; eructations of a musty smell; thin mucous stools without pain; burning sensation in the loins; violent attacks of pain in the abdomen in the region of the umbilicus. Pain as from incarceration of the bowels; cutting pains in the anus; stools of a bilious or stringy character. Much flatus is passed with the stool. Spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the loins; pains in the ~~abdomen~~ relieved by pressure or by leaning forward. Eructations of a greenish yellow color; discharges of pure blood from the bowels; tenesmus of the bladder; gripping pain in the intestine. Rises and vomiting; perianth heat;

excessive thirst; putrid taste in the mouth; decomposition of different parts of the surface; fall and bounding pulse.

11. *Dysentery Mercuri Corrosivi. Mor. Cr. Dysenterg.*

Intermissions of a bilious character large pieces of a green or brown color mixed with sanguinous mucus; severe cutting pains in the bowels accompanied with much vomiting and tenesmus; difficult desire to evacuate; high colored evacuations mixed with mucus and coagulated blood; stitching and gripping pains on moving; discharge of a corrosive substance; string stools. Burning sensation in the abdomen; putrid taste in the mouth; severe thirst; tongue coated with a whitish substance, especially on its edges; vomiting mucus of a bitter taste. Convulsions expression of countenance great sensibility towards the fresh air; pulse trembling, thready and hardly perceptible.

Mercuri Corrosivi is a specific Remedy

in dysentery of a gastric character. The febrile symptoms should be removed by Aconite after which one may commence the use of this remedy. It is sometimes used in alternation with Aconite with beneficial results.

12. Dysentery Phosphori. Phosphorus Dysentery.

Mucous discharges mingled with blood, involuntary evacuations, discharge of pure blood & mucus, pressure after each evacuation accompanied pain and much exhaustion, itching with sharp, stinging pains in the rectum; feces of greenish greyish color. Contraction of the rectum with cramps; prickling sensation with cramps in the fingers; numbness of the extremities. Dryness of the mouth and fauces. General debility and much anxiety about the termination of the disease.

Phosphorus is one of the most valuable remedies which we possess in the cure of dysentery, and especially of the chronic form. It may be judiciously alternated with Ursenum.